

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/712,107

Examiner

Vincent E. Kovalick

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI, AKIHISA

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment after final dated 11/8/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/13/03 & 4/21/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Amendment dated November 8, 2006 in response to USPTO Final Office Action dated August 18, 2006.

The amendment to claim 1 is sufficient to place the application in a condition for allowance as set forth hereinbelow.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Relative to claim 1, the major difference between teachings of the prior art of record (Yuyama et al. (USP 5,612,732); Soltesz et al. (USP 5,756,978); Slaughter, III et al. (USP 5,598,536) and Landis et al. (USP 5,588,148)), and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a camera comprising a storage device for storing owner identification information and user identification information; an information reader for reading identification information from an external storage medium, the read identification information being different from the owner identification information and set as the user identification information; a communicating device for communicating with a server through a network, the server being designated in accordance with the identification information last read. Relative to claim 2, the major difference between teachings of the said prior art of record

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and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a camera comprising a communicational condition evaluating device for determining whether condition of the communication of the communicating device with the served is satisfactory; and a communication postponing device for, if the communicational condition evaluating device determines that the condition is unsatisfactory, postponing the communication of the communicating device with the server until the communicational condition evaluating device determines that the condition becomes satisfactory.

Relative to claim 4, the major difference between teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** the said camera comprising a camera communicating device for communicating with at least one additional cameras reading the same identification information that the camera reads; and a cooperative mode designating device for designating the camera in either of a master mode and a slave mode with respect to the additional cameras; wherein the camera supervises the additional camera through the camera communicating device when the camera is in the master mode; when the camera is supervised by one of the additional cameras through the camera communicating device when the camera is in the slave mode, the one of the additional cameras being designated in the master mode by the cooperative mode designating device thereof.

Relative to claim 5, the major difference between teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a camera comprising an identification information storage device for storing identification information of a plurality of persons read by the information reader; and a communication controller for controlling the communicating device and the data transmitter such that the communicating device

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communicates with the server designated in accordance with the read identification information of each of the persons and the data transmitter transmits the image data to the designated server.

Relative to claim 8, the major difference between teachings of the said prior art of record and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** a camera comprising a user's identification information setting device for setting the owner's identification information as user's identification information if the information reader reads no identification information and setting the identification information read by the information reader as the user's identification information if the information reader reads the identification information; and a communicating device for communicating with a server through a network, the server being designated in accordance with the user's identification information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Applicant's Remarks

4. Applicant's remarks relative to claims 1 and 3 are rendered moot in light of the allowance of said independent claims 1.

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


U. S. Patent No.	6,298,386	Rosner et al.
U. S. Patent No.	6,005,678	Higashida et al.
U. S. Patent No.	5,999,766	Hisatomi et al.


To Respond

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent E. Kovalick whose telephone number is 571-272-7669. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30- 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Vincent E. Kovalick
November 8, 2006


BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600